

The City Attorney's Office provides the city with legal counsel on all issues affecting the city and protects the city's interest in litigation. The City Attorney advises the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and Departments on legal issues and determines the legality of ordinances, resolutions, contracts, conveyances and other documents. The City Attorney also advises city boards, committees and commissions on matters within their respective jurisdiction, and works with the various city departments on special issues.

2004/05 Operational Highlights:

- Actively participated in mediation on a proposed regional settlement of water rights issues, and successfully negotiated and gained approval of the Jicarilla Apache Nation-City Water Agreement and the City-County Water Resources Agreement/Joint Powers Agreement.
- Successfully participated in the trial of the living wage case in District Court and worked on appellate court issues.
- Provided legal counsel on many issues related to the development and management of the Railyard Project.
- Researched and reviewed the advisability of the city's acquisition of the Santa Fe to Lamy rail line, and advised the city of the potential risks, liabilities and responsibilities of owning the line.
- Worked with staff to develop a review process for PNM projects that complies with state law, and helped develop and draft an electric facilities plan and PNM franchise agreement.
- Provided continuing support for city staff and the City Council on all legal matters including personnel, union contracts and grievances, pending legislation, contract review, insurance claims, code interpretations, open meetings and public records requirements, and various other legal concerns.

2005/06 Goals and Objectives:

- Continue to provide service levels for growing city demands.
- Maintain a customer service orientation for City Attorney's Office staff.
- Continue to limit the city's liability and exposure.
- Implement improved quasi-judicial appeal procedures.
- Identify and improve methods for dealing with long-term water supply goals.

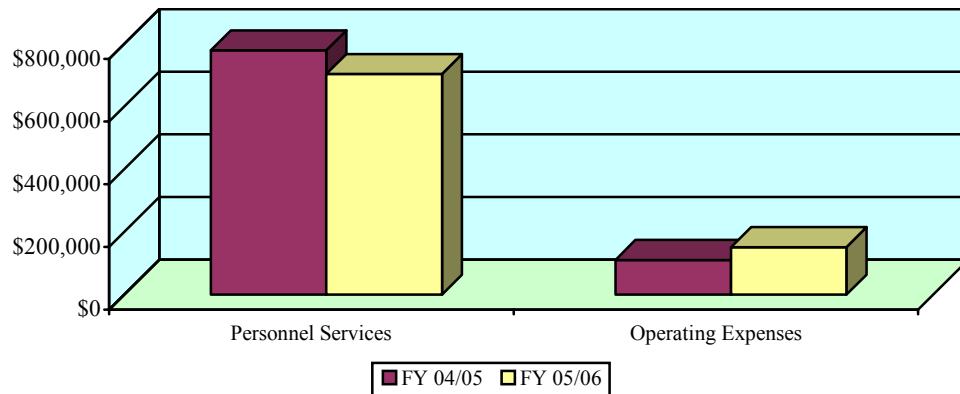
Budget Commentary:

The FY 2005/06 General Fund operating budget of \$855,604 provides funding for the City Attorney and nine staff members, \$40,000 for the Municipal Prosecutor's contract and \$50,000 in outside counsel contracts for cases involving conflicts of interest. Other major expenses include miscellaneous professional service contracts in the amount of \$3,500 and various subscription and book updates for the law library at a cost of \$26,000. An Assistant City Attorney and Paralegal continue to be funded by the Water Division due to their responsibility for legal aspects of water resource matters.

During FY 2004/05, a vacant Assistant City Attorney position was moved to the Human Resources Department and split/reclassified into two positions, as noted in the Human Resources Department presentation.

<u>POSITION/CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>FY 05/06 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY 05/06 BUDGET</u>
City Attorney	1 – EX	1 – EX
Assistant City Attorney	6 – EX	5 – EX
Office Manager	1 – EX	1 – EX
Paralegal	<u>3</u> – CLFT	<u>3</u> – CLFT
TOTAL:	11	10

#### EXPENDITURE CLASSIFICATION



	<u>FY 04/05 REVISED</u>	<u>FY 05/06 APPROPRIATION</u>
Personnel Services	\$ 779,628	\$ 703,925
Operating Expenses	<u>110,821</u>	<u>151,679</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 890,449	\$ 855,604